



2013 Bluestone Dam Full Scale Exercise Fact Sheet

- Many federal funding streams, including Homeland Security and Public Health Preparedness, have exercise requirements using the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation (HSEEP) program.
- The Emergency Management Performance Grant and the State Homeland Security Grant require a Full Scale Exercise in both 2011 and 2012. Due to real world events, we have been granted extensions to meet these requirements.
- While the 2013 Bluestone Dam Full Scale Exercise was created specifically to meet the requirements for these two grants, we encourage other agencies using HSEEP to participate in this exercise.
- The exercise will take place on Thursday, March 21, 2013 from noon until 8:00 pm. Agencies from approximately 30 local jurisdictions along with roughly 15 state agencies are expected to participate. Private sector organizations including utilities, hospitals and manufacturers will also be invited to participate.
- The exercise will use a scenario of heavy rainfall in the New and Kanawha River basins to create a high water event that generates concern around, though not necessarily failure of, the Bluestone Dam in Summers County. Protective actions will be ordered for all downstream communities.
- The exercise will focus on four Core Capabilities:
 - Mass Care (sheltering and feeding)
 - Citizen Evacuation
 - Operational Coordination/Incident Management
 - Continuity of Operations

Agencies and jurisdictions may incorporate other objectives to meet their needs but the planning team may not be able to assist with the evaluation of these additions.

- Prior to this exercise, a tabletop exercise was conducted in February 2012 and a functional exercise in June 2012. The full scale exercise will build on the outcomes of the preceding events and will allow us to assess the actions taken to remedy gaps previously identified.
- Information gathered in this exercise series has been and will be utilized in revising various functional annexes of the state Emergency Operations Plan, and determining whether a generic catastrophic incident annex is needed. Local plans and procedures will also be reviewed and revised.

Information for Participating Agencies & Jurisdictions

- According to HSEEP, a Full Scale exercise does not require all capabilities or functions to be fully tested. However it cannot solely be a discussion based activity but must include some field based “boots on the ground” activity.
- To participate, organizations must submit an Extent of Participation Agreement that outlines their specific exercise activity. This document should contain information on how they will cooperate and integrate with other organizations.
- The exercise will generally work from the scenario and timeline already established in the previous tabletop and functional exercises. The scenario will be provided to all participants prior to the exercise date, probably in early February 2013.
- Limited financial assistance will be available to assist local agencies and jurisdictions with pre-approved exercise costs. These funds will be available on a reimbursement basis. Financial commitments and procedures will be agreed upon during a phone conference with the agency and representatives of the exercise planning team.
- A pre-exercise survey will be distributed to all participating agencies to validate the level of planning that has been completed. This information will be provided to the exercise evaluators.
- Agencies are requested, though not required, to submit copies of their plans, procedures, and resource lists that relate to the four capabilities being evaluated in this exercise to the planning team.
- Evaluators will be deployed to all primary exercise locations. Exercise Evaluation Guides have been developed so there is a consistent standard against which all agencies and jurisdictions will be measured.
- Participating agencies and jurisdictions will be provided copies of the After Action Report and Improvement Plan from the Bluestone tabletop and functional exercises. Additionally, they should review other planning resources related to potential impacts from the Bluestone Dam and the four Core Capabilities which are the focus of this exercise.
- Regional Seminars will be conducted in late January to review exercise information and promote collaboration. Participation by all agencies and jurisdictions playing in the exercises is encouraged.